

Special Called Joint Meeting Randolph County Board of Commissioners & Asheboro City Board of Education—December 21, 2004

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners met in a special called joint meeting with the Asheboro City Board of Education on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at 4 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, 725 McDowell Road, Asheboro, NC. Commissioners Holmes, Frye, Davis, Kemp and Lanier were present. School Board members present were Deborah Martin, Joyce Harrington, Chris Yow, Derek Robbins, Steve Jones, Linda Cranford, Lynn Jones, and Pam Hill.

Chairman Harold Holmes called the meeting to order for the County.

Chairman Steve Jones called the meeting to order for the Board of Education.

Chairman Jones said that the Board of Education asked for this meeting to get clarification on and to discuss recent comments about the proposed schools capital projects, funding source and the timing of these projects. He said that they had heard that the County Commissioners might reconsider their previous decision to hold a bond referendum and instead use certificates of participation (COPS). Also, they had heard that the County Commissioners may reconsider the timing of the projects—delaying the City Schools' and RCC's projects in order to reserve some of the County's borrowing power in anticipation of a statewide public school bond issue now being considered at the state level. These state funds may be available by 2007-2008.

Dr. Diane Frost, Asheboro City Schools Superintendent, said that a lot of time and effort had been spent in their capital needs study and they felt very confident in the results, which identified their critical needs. They are concerned that if the City Schools' projects (additions at Teachey School and North Asheboro Middle School and continued renovation at Asheboro High School) are delayed for several years, the overcrowdedness will become extremely critical and the delay would cause additional construction costs.

Dr. Frost and Harold Blair, City Schools' Finance Officer, also inquired about the local match required, should state school bond funds become a reality. Dr. Frost and Mr. Blair expressed concern that if their projects are delayed (and unfunded), this could cause the City School System to be ineligible for any of the state funding based on how local match was calculated during the last school bond funds issue. However, there is no way to predict, at this point, what the state will require in regard to local match.

City School Board members said that they would fully support the County Commissioners' reconsideration of a COPS deal instead of a bond referendum; however, several members stated that they believe a bond referendum would pass in the city, but they don't know about how it would fair in the county.

Chairman Jones urged the Commissioners to proceed with all school projects as planned, which includes the city and county projects as well as RCC's projects.

Chairman Holmes said that the Commissioners would consider these issues at their January meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

J. Harold Holmes, Chairman

Darrell L. Frye

Robert B. Davis

Phil Kemp

Arnold Lanier

Cheryl Ivey, Deputy Clerk to the Board